

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 AGRE-00 HEW-04
OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 /094 W
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O 291525Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5659
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT AU PRINCE 2721

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW) HA
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP TO HAITI

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 2546

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG VISIT TO HAITI HAS STIRRED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND SPECULATION AS TO ITS PURPOSE. INTELLIGENTSIA ASSUME VISIT PROTENDS MAJOR UNDEFINED POLICY CHANGES CONSISTENT WITH SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE RECENT VISITS BY SUCH PROMINENT U.S. FIGURES AS SENATOR BROOKS OR CONGRESSMAN RANGEL. GOH, PRESUMABLY BRIEFED BY ITS UN AMBASSADOR SERGE CHARLES, HAS BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE AND HAS EXPRESSED READINESS TO DISCUSS ISSUES FRANKLY IN A "NO FRILLS" VISIT. WE SEE THIS AS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER MATTERS BY OFFICIAL RECOGNIZED AS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER. DEGREE TO WHICH GOH IS RESPONSIVE WILL BE MEASURED BY ITS OWN SENSE OF DIGNITY AND PRIDE (ACCENTUATED BY U.S. OCCUPATION 1915-1933 AND U.S. INTERVENTION IN 1960'S) BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION IT WILL MAKE BEST EFFORT. FOLLOWING ARE ITEMS WHICH
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DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO BRING TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ATTENTION.

2. BACKGROUND.

A. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. U.S. RENEWED MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO HAITI IN FY 75 (REFTEL) AFTER CAREFUL EVALUATION OF IMPROVING GOH HUMAN RIGHTS PERFOR-

MANCE. ASSISTANCE RESTRICTED (EXCEPT FOR FMS CASH SALES) TO NON-MILITARY PROGRAM OF IMPROVING AIR/SEA RESCUE CAPABILITY. TRAINING PROGRAM INAUGURATED IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM AND TO LIMITED DEGREE IN GENERAL MANAGEMENT. END OF 1976, WE OFFERED AND GOH ACCEPTED FMS CREDIT LINE OF DOLS 500,000 TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT RELATED TO AIR/SEA RESCUE. GOH PURCHASE LIST HAS JUST BEEN APPROVED.

B. (1) DROUGHT-POWER CRISIS. DROUGHTS ARE OCCURRING WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY AND IN THE MOST DISADVANTAGED AREAS (THE NORTHWEST AND THE ILE OF GONAVE), HARDSHIP IS INCREASING. PEOPLE IN THESE AREAS HAD NOT RECOVERED FROM THE 1974/1975 DROUGHT WHEN THEY WERE BESET BY THIS YEAR'S DROUGHT. THE U.S. AND OTHER DONORS RESPONDED WITH INCREASED FOOD SHIPMENTS AND THE GOH INCREASED ITS COMMERCIAL IMPORTS OF GRAINS. IN ADDITION, RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT DROUGHT ARE BEING STRENGTHENED.

(2) SEVERE DROUGHT EARLIER THIS YEAR AFFECTING THE COUNTRY'S ONLY HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY COMBINES WITH CONSTRUCTION DELAYS IN THE NEW PORT AU PRINCE DIESEL GENERATING PLANT TO DEPRIVE THE CITY OF MOST OF ITS ELECTRICITY FOR 2-1/2 MONTHS THIS SPRING. RESPONDING TO THE THREAT OF HEALTH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LACK OF ELECTRICITY TO PUMP WATER, AS WELL AS UNEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER PROBLEMS, THE U.S. LOANED THE GOH FOUR DIESEL GENERATORS FOR A MONTH AND A HALF. THE GOH PURCHASED

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TWO SETS OF DIESEL GENERATORS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 20 MW WHICH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AS AN EMERGENCY RESERVE.

C. INTERNATIONAL DONOR ASSISTANCE. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN THE 1960'S WAS ESSENTIALLY LIMITED TO MODEST HEALTH PROGRAMS AND DIRECT RELIEF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, DONORS HAVE RESUMED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS NOW AMOUNT TO ABOUT DOLS 60 MILLION PER YEAR. BILATERAL DONORS INCLUDE THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, CANADA, GERMANY, ISRAEL, AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. MULTILATERAL DONORS INCLUDE THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, THE WORLD BANK, THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AND THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 150 PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CARRYING OUT PROJECTS IN HAITI. MAJOR PROJECTS UNDER WAY INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH ROAD, PORT EXPANSION, EDUCATION PROJECTS OF THE IDB, POWER AND EDUCATION PROJECTS OF THE WORLD BANK, THE CANADIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT PETIT GOAVE, ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL WORK AND THE GERMAN PROJECTS IN THE GONAIVES AREA AND THE NORTHWEST. THE MAJOR U.S. PROJECTS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL FEEDER ROADS, AN INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT, ASSISTANCE TO SMALL FARMERS, HEALTH AND POPULATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVED ROAD MAINTENANCE.

3. U.S. SHOULD RAISE:

A. HUMAN RIGHTS - UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE TO RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND TO ATTITUDES OF U.S. GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS, AND THE PEOPLE.

RECOGNIZE THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN PRISON CONDITIONS THE RELEASE OF MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS AND NON-POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE ASSIZES IN 1976. GOH VOTE WITH US AT OASGA ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION ESPECIALLY GRATIFYING.

WE HOPE GOH WILL CONTINUE IN DIRECTION IT HAS ALREADY STARTED. FURTHER SYSTEMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN PRISON
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CONDITIONS, TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AND EARLY TRIALS WOULD SEEM TO BE GOOD DIRECTIONS CONSISTENT WITH PAST GOH INITIATIVES.

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 AGRE-00 HEW-04

OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT AU PRINCE 2721

EVEN THOUGH GOH HAS INTRODUCED IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA IN THE PAST YEAR, HAITI'S CRITICS IN THE U.S. TEND TO DENY THEM. THESE CRITICS ARE OUTSPOKEN AND INFLUENTIAL. THE GOH WOULD GREATLY STRENGTHEN ITS

HAND IF IT WERE, CONSISTENT WITH THE OASGA HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION, TO INVITE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM IAHRIC OR OTHER RESPECTED BODY TO VISIT HAITI, OBSERVE AND DISCUSS CONDITIONS AND POLICY WITH GOH, AND BE ABLE TO COMMENT AUTHORITATIVELY THEREAFTER.

B. UNGA - EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN SECRETARY FOR GOH INTEREST IN AND COOPERATION WITH U.S. ON MANY UNGA MATTERS.

C. AID - OUR AID PROGRAM IS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PRODUCTIVITY, INCOME, AND LIVING STANDARDS OF HAITI'S RURAL POOR. WE DO NOT NEED TO GET INVOLVED IN LARGE CAPITAL PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS FOR PORT AU PRINCE. OUR EFFORTS ARE COORDINATED WITH OTHER DONORS AND SEEK TO SUPPORT THE HAITIANS' OWN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

4. GOH MAY RAISE:

A. EDUCATION - GOH HAS ASKED US TO BUILD 12 URBAN SCHOOLS. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IBRD AND IDB AS HEAVILY ENGAGED IN FORMAL EDUCATION. WHILE WE DO NOT

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THINK WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE FIELD OF FORMAL EDUCATION, WE ARE INTERESTED IN EXPANDING OUR WORK IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN CONNECTION WITH OUR WORK WITH THE RURAL POOR.

B. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE - AMBASSADOR SALOMON'S BRIEFING PAPER FOR CONGRESSMAN RANGEL LAST JANUARY SUGGESTED WE WERE PROVIDING HAITI WITH MINIMAL ASSISTANCE IN COMPARISON WITH THAT GIVEN BY US TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. IN FACT, IN 1978 HAITI PROGRAM WILL BE 50 PER CENT GREATER THAN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PROGRAM AND IT WILL BE ALL GRANT. PL 480 INCLUDING BOTH TITLES WILL BE 100 PER CENT GREATER THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR HAITI HAS GROWN RAPIDLY SINCE 1972. WE DESIGN OUR PROJECTS TO FIT INTO THE GOH DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, TO BE MANAGED BY HAITIANS, AND TO CONTINUE WORKING AFTER OUR INVOLVEMENT ENDS. THE LACK OF TRAINED HAITIAN TECHNICIANS AND SMALL HAITIAN BUDGET ARE THE MAJOR LIMITING FACTORS IN HAITI'S CAPACITY TO ABSORB MORE AID.

C. CUBA - THE GOH IS NERVOUS ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS TOWARD CUBA. WE SHOULD REITERATE THAT WE ARE EXPLORING RELATIONS WITH CUBA BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE CARIBBEAN, THAT OUR ACTIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE ANY CHANGE IN POLICY TOWARD HAITI, AND THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE RIO TREATY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PORT AU PRINCE 2546
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1809677
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP TO HAITI
TAGS: OVIP, HA, (YOUNG, ANDREW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/21330467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009